REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 13-15 are pending. Claims 11-12 have been cancelled with new claims 13-15 substituted therefor.

The specification has been amended to incorporate by reference the International application from which the present application is based, and the claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies in order to reduce the filing fee.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Parkhurst

Reg. No. 25,177

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: (202) 429-3000